

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST)		ORDER GRANTING
FOR AN ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS)		APPROVAL OF AN
EXCEPTION BETWEEN XCEL ENERGY, INC.)		EXCEPTION TO THE
AND SIOUX VALLEY-SOUTHWESTERN)		ASSIGNED ELECTRIC
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. D/B/A SIOUX)		SERVICE TERRITORY
VALLEY ENERGY)		EL04-039

On December 14, 2004, Xcel Energy, Inc. (Xcel) and Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a Sioux Valley Energy (Sioux Valley) filed a joint request with the Public Utilities Commission for approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception. The exception would allow Sioux Valley to provide electrical service to a South Dakota Department of Transportation Dynamic Message Board. The sign is located within Xcel's service territory, but because of proximity will be better connected to Sioux Valley's power system nearby. The location of the sign is on the south side of I90 about 1.375 miles east of the intersection of I229 and I90 near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, located in the SW 1/4 of Section 25 of Mapleton Township 102 North, Range 49 West in Minnehaha County, South Dakota. The agreement will automatically terminate upon removal or abandonment of the sign.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 8, 2005, the Commission considered the matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that Sioux Valley may provide electrical service to the South Dakota Department of Transportation Dynamic Message Board until removal or abandonment of the sign as it will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to all customers affected, and promote the efficient use and development of the electric systems of Xcel and Sioux Valley. Further, the Commission finds that an exception to the assigned service territory is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exception to the assignment of service territory is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 9th day of February, 2005.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: _____
Date: _____
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

GARY HANSON, Chairman

ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner